



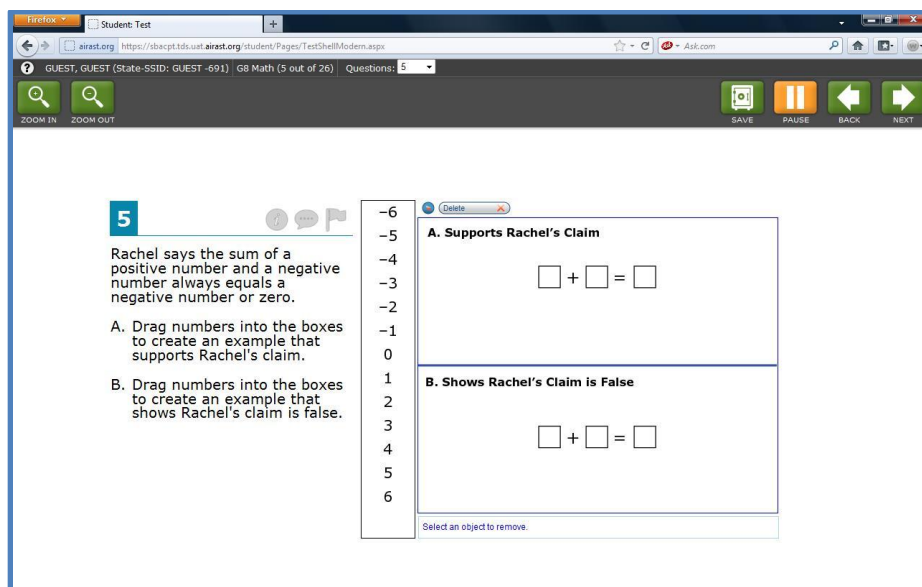
The Smarter Balanced Practice Test

Smarter Balanced Practice Tests in grades 3-8 and 11 in English language arts/literacy (ELA/literacy) and mathematics are now available online. Students, teachers, and parents nationwide have access to sets of assessment questions aligned to the Common Core that can be used for professional development and discussions with policymakers and other interested stakeholders. The Practice Tests are freely available through the Smarter Balanced website: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>.

The Practice Tests provide a preview of the Smarter Balanced assessments. However, users should note that they do not encompass the full range of content that students may encounter on the operational assessments and therefore should not be used to guide instructional decisions. In addition, the Practice Tests are presented in a “fixed form” (i.e., not computer adaptive) and users will not receive reports or scores. Although the Practice Tests follow a fixed-form model, the operational assessment system will be computer adaptive.

Development of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System will continue after the release of the Practice Tests and through summer 2014 in collaboration with member states and educators. By fall 2013, the Practice Tests will be augmented with additional features, including:

- Performance tasks for mathematics (including classroom-based activities);
- Classroom-based activities for ELA/literacy performance tasks in selected grades;
- Scoring rubrics; and
- American Sign Language translation and other accommodation and accessibility tools.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://sbapt.tds.usat.aisast.org/student/Pages/TestShellModern.aspx>. The page displays a math problem for a student named Rachel. The problem is titled "5" and asks the student to drag numbers into boxes to create an example that supports Rachel's claim or shows her claim is false. The claim is: "Rachel says the sum of a positive number and a negative number always equals a negative number or zero." The interface includes a sidebar with a number line from -6 to 6, a "Delete" button, and a "Select an object to remove" prompt. The problem is divided into two parts: "A. Supports Rachel's Claim" and "B. Shows Rachel's Claim is False". Each part has a box for the equation $\square + \square = \square$.

An Early Look at Smarter Balanced Assessments

Smarter Balanced is making this initial version of the Practice Tests available nearly two years before the assessment system is implemented. Teachers, students, and parents can experience the features of online testing and gain insight into how Smarter Balanced will assess students' mastery of the Common Core.

The Practice Tests include test questions with the same features that students will experience in 2014-15. Smarter Balanced assessment items and performance tasks are written and reviewed in collaboration with K-12 teachers and higher education faculty—and they are all aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The Practice Tests include:

Selected-response items	Selected-response (SR) items prompt students to select one or more responses from a set of options.
Constructed-response items	Constructed-response (CR) items prompt students to produce a text or numerical answer. These include short items that require 1-2 sentences or a number or equation, and longer items that require extended writing or mathematical explanation. Some items can be computer scored, and some require hand-scoring by trained raters.
Technology-enhanced items	Technology-enhanced items take advantage of the computer-administered format to assess students' skills and understanding of content by collecting non-traditional responses such as a drawn object or edited text.
Performance tasks	Performance tasks are extended activities that involve significant interaction of students with stimulus materials and/or engagement in problem solving. Each Performance Task asks questions that are based on a real-world situation to gauge a student's ability to integrate knowledge and skills across multiple standards, and to better measure capacities such as depth of understanding, research and writing skills, and complex analysis, which cannot be thoroughly assessed with other item types.

Accessible for All Students

The Smarter Balanced Assessment System will provide accurate measures of achievement and growth for students with disabilities and English language learners. A variety of accessibility tools and accommodations are being developed to ensure that the assessments meet the needs of all students. The Practice Tests include an initial set of accessibility features that will be available to all students in the final assessment system, such as highlighting text, zooming in and out, marking items for review, notepad, and scratch paper. Several accommodations are available in the Practice Tests for selected grades and subjects.

	English Language Arts/literacy	Mathematics
Text to Speech (items only)	Grades 4, 7, 11	Grades 3, 7, 11
Braille	Grades 4, 7, 11	Grades 3, 7, 11
Customized pop-up Spanish glossary (mathematics only)		Grades 3, 7, 11

By fall 2013, these accommodations will become available for all grades. In addition, the Practice Tests will feature videos of human signers using American Sign Language (for ELA/literacy listening items and mathematics only) for all grades by fall 2013. Additional accessibility and accommodation features are planned for the Field Test in 2014 and operational test in 2015.

Resources and Requirements

The Practice Tests can be accessed at any time through the Smarter Balanced website: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>. Visitors have access to a user guide that provides direct guidance on accessing the Practice Tests, as well as frequently asked questions that provide additional information about the assessment and how to use it. The following browsers are compatible with the Practice Tests.

Operating System	OS Version	Supported Browsers
Desktops/Laptops		
Windows	XP (with Service Pack 3), Vista, 7, 8 Windows Server 2003, 2008	Windows Secure Browser 6.0 Firefox 3.6 and above
Mac	10.4.4 (all) 10.5 (PowerPC)	Mac Secure Browser 5.5 Firefox 3.6 Safari 5
	10.5–10.8 (Intel)	Mac Secure Browser 6.0 Firefox 3.6 and above Safari 5 (OS 10.5–10.7) Safari 6 (OS 10.7–10.8)
Linux	Fedora Core 6 (K12LTSP 4.2+) Ubuntu 9–12	Linux Secure Browser 6.0 Firefox 3.6 and above
Tablets/Netbooks		
Android	4.0+ Supported Devices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Google Nexus 10 – Motorola Xoom – Motorola Xyboard – Samsung Galaxy Note (10.1) – Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 (10.1) 	AIRSecureTest Browser for Android Default Internet browser on tablet Google Chrome 18 and above
iPad	iOS 6.0+ Supported Devices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – iPad 2, 3, Retina Display 	AIRSecureTest Browser for iPad Safari 6 and above
Chromebooks	Version 18 or above	Google Chrome